

APPLICANTS' ELECTION

Applicants hereby elect the invention of **Group I, claims 1 through 29, drawn to methods for treating and/or preventing various disorders.**

Additionally, Applicants elect the following species, as found for example in claims 5 through 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, and 27: **disorder: pulmonary hypertension; environmental stimulus: cardiac surgery; and nitric oxide precursor: citrulline.**

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are now pending in the subject U.S. patent application. Claims 1-33 as filed have been subjected to a Restriction/Election Requirement and also to a Species Election Requirement.

In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement, applicants have elected the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1 through 29, drawn to methods for treating or preventing various disorders. Additionally, in response to the Species Election Requirement presented with respect to claims 1 through 29, Applicants have elected as the environmental stimulus: cardiac surgery; as the disorder: pulmonary hypertension; and as the nitric oxide precursor: citrulline. It is believed that claims 1 through 29, and new claim 34, read on the elected subject matter.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the unelected subject matter. Applicants further respectfully request consideration of additional species upon indication of the allowability of a generic claim.

New claim 34 has been added. New claim 34, which is dependent from claim 6, recites that the environmental stimulus comprises increased postoperative pulmonary

vascular tone associated with cardiac surgery. Support for new claim 34 can be found throughout the instant U.S. patent application as filed, including for example at page 46, lines 28-29. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSIONS

Should there be any minor issues outstanding in this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

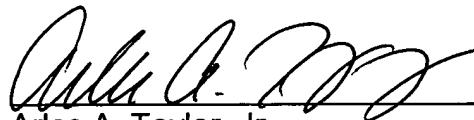
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 26, 2007

By:



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1242/58 AAT/ljp

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